

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01706 020920Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 OES-06 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 CG-00
DOTE-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /087 W
-----020923 108929 /10

O R 020825Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2407
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1706

EA/K PASS AMBASSADOR SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, KS, UR, JA
SUBJECT: U.S., SOVIET, JAPAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) SEOUL 1659, (B) TOKYO 2826 (NOTAL), (C) MOSCOW
2677

SUMMARY: ROKG HAS ISSUED NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS TO
ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY TO PERMIT SPEEDY ENTRY INTO FORCE
OF GIFA UPON ITS SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT. GOVERN-
MENT BELIEVES THAT SOVIET ACCOMMODATION TO CONTINUED
JAPANESE FISHING PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION HAS SET
THE STAGE FOR EMBASSY MOSCOW TO (A) INQUIRE WHETHER
"ALL LITTORAL STATES SIMILARLY BENEFIT" AS WELL AS
(B) FOR THAT EMBASSY TO BE PREPARED TO FORWARD KOREAN
APPLICATIONS FOR FISHING LICENSES TO THE APPROPRIATE
SOVIET OFFICE AND "SEE WHAT HAPPENS". WE BELIEVE
THESE ACTIONS ARE WITHIN EXISTING INSTRUCTIONS AND
REQUEST EMBASSY MOSCOW TO MAKE THE FOREGOING INQUIRY
AND TO BE PREPARED TO DELIVER APPLICATIONS UPON RECEIPT.
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END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE OF ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER FOR ECON AFFAIRS
AS WELL AS BUREAU DIRECTOR HAM, MR. HUH SEUNG, CHIEF
ECON COOP DIVISION SUMMONED EMBOFF MARCH 2, TO DISCUSS
FISHERY SITUATION.

2. EMBOFF INFORMED HUH (AND SUBSEQUENTLY OFA DIRECTOR GENERAL SHIN) THAT ROK GIFA HAD PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND THAT ABOUT ONE DAY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE AFTER WHICH EXCHANGES OF NOTES COULD TAKE PLACE. RECOMMENDED THAT ROK EMBASSY WASHDC FOLLOW PROCESS CLOSELY SO THAT FURTHER DELAYS WOULD NOT OCCUR. HUH RESPONDED THAT ROK VESSELS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO CEASE FISHING AT MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 28 AND THAT THE ROK EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO HANDLE NOTE EXCHANGES. HE REFERRED TO MR. BAE'S REMARKS FIRST REFTEL AND STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN AVOIDING INTENSE MEDIA PRESSURE TO FIND OUT WHAT SITUATION PREVAILS IN THE U.S. ZONE. HE EXPRESSED PROFOUND ANXIETY THAT THE GIFA FORMALITIES MAY BE COMPLETED IN THE SHORTEST SPAN OF TIME TO AVOID FURTHER POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT. EMBOFF STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT NO REPEAT NO ROK VIOLATIONS BE ALLOWED TO OCCUR DURING THIS PERIOD.

3. TURNING TO THE SOVIET SITUATION, HUH NOTED THAT JAPANESE AND EC DEVELOPMENTS HAD FORCED THE USSR TO THINK MORE CONCRETELY ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS CONSERVATION DECREE. HE SAID THAT THE ROKG SEES PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN THE FACT THAT THE ISHKOV/SUZUKI MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28 HAD RESULTED IN SOVS AGREEING TO CONTINUED JAPANESE FISHING PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THE STAGE HAD BEEN APPROPRIATELY SET FOR THE ROKG TO ASK THE U.S. TO INVOKE THE SECOND ELEMENT OF THE KOREAN REQUEST FOR U.S. GOOD OFFICES (76 SEOUL 9925) WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS TO PROBE AN INFORMAL, PRACTICAL MODUS VIVENDI WITH THE SOVIETS.

4. HUH REQUESTED FIRST THAT EMBASSY MOSCOW APPROACH THE SOVIETS TO INQUIRE WHETHER ITS INTENTION NOT TO EXCLUDE JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS FROM ITS ZONE AFTER MARCH 1 PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION CAN BE UNDERSTOOD SIMILARLY TO APPLY TO THE OTHER TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN IN THE AREA. HE NOTED THAT THE ROKG HAD, BEFORE ISSUING ITS RECALL ORDER, CONSIDERED MERELY LEAVING THE KOREAN VESSELS IN THE KAMCHATKA AREA, BUT IT HAD DECIDED THAT THE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES WERE TOO GREAT.

5. SECONDLY, HUH STATED THAT THE ROKG REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY MOSCOW TRANSMIT WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR FISHING LICENSES FOR ROK FLAG VESSELS; VIZ. MERELY LAY THEM ON THE APPROPRIATE DESK IN MOSCOW "TO SEEWHAT HAPPENS".

6. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) THAT DEPT ASK EMBASSY MOSCOW TO IN-

QUIRE WHETHER USSR INTENTION TO DELAY ENTRY INTO FORCE OF ITS
CONSERVATION ZONE IS SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF JAPANESE
VESSELS OR WHETHER IT MAY BE UNDERSTOOD TO APPLY TO
ALL THE LITTORAL STATES WITH TRADITIONAL FISHERIES IN
THE AREA. (B) UPON RECEIPT OF ROK APPLICATIONS FOR
FISHING LICENSES, EMBASSY MOSCOW DELIVER THEM TO THE
APPROPRIATE OFFICE.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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